REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshio SEIKI et al.

Nils E. Pedersen

Registration No. 33,145 Attorney for Applicants

NEP/abm Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 February 28, 2005